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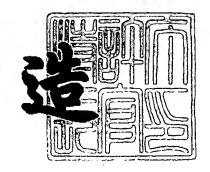
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非晶質微細シリカ粒子とその製造方法および用途

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要

【書類名】 明細書

【発明の名称】 非晶質微細シリカ粒子とその製造方法および用途 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 ガス状の珪素化合物を火炎中に導いて加水分解することにより非晶質シリカ微粒子を製造する方法において、火炎温度をシリカの融点以上および火炎中のシリカ濃度を 0.2 5 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>以上とし、生成したシリカ粒子をシリカの融点以上の高温下に短時間滞留させ、平均粒径(メジアン径) 0.1~0.7 μmおよび比表面積 5~30 m<sup>2</sup>/gの非晶質シリカ粒子を得ることを特徴とする非晶質微細シリカ粒子の製造方法。

【請求項2】 火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)が0.25~1.0 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>である請求項1の製造方法。

【請求項3】 シリカ粒子の火炎中の滞留時間(t)が0.02~0.30秒である請求項1または2の製造方法。

【請求項4】 シリカ粒子の比表面積(S)、メジアン径(r)、火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)、シリカ粒子の火炎中の滞留時間(t)を、おのおの次式[I]または[II]に従って制御する請求項1、2または3の製造方法。

$$S = 3.52 \text{ (v · t)}^{-0.4} \cdots \text{ [I]}$$
  
 $r = 1.07 \text{ (v · t)}^{0.4} \cdots \text{ [II]}$ 

【請求項5】 平均粒径(メジアン径)  $0.1\sim0.7~\mu$ mおよび比表面積  $5\sim3~0~m^2/g$ であって、次式 [III] で表される分散係数(z)が40以下であることを特徴とする非晶質微細シリカ粒子。

$$z = Y/2 X \cdots [III]$$

(Xはメジアン径、Yは累積10%到達粒径から累積90%到達粒径までの粒 径範囲)

【請求項6】 半導体樹脂封止材の充填材として用いられる請求項5の非晶質微細シリカ粒子。

【請求項7】 プラスチックフィルムないしシートのアンチブロッキング用フィラーとして用いられる請求項5の非晶質微細シリカ粒子。

【請求項8】 トナー用外添剤として用いられる請求項5の非晶質微細シリ

力粒子。

【請求項9】 電子写真感光体の表面保護層もしくは電荷輸送層に用いられる請求項5の非晶質微細シリカ粒子。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

## 【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、半導体封止材の充填材、プラスチックフィルムやシートのアンチブロッキング用フィラー、あるいは電子写真方式を用いた複写機、プリンター、ファクシミリ、製版システムなどにおける電子写真用トナーの外添剤や内添剤、また電子写真感光体の表面保護層や電荷輸送層の材料として好適な非晶質球体シリカ微粒子とその製造方法に関する。

### [0002]

半導体樹脂封止材にはその流動性や耐バリ性を改善するためにシリカ微粉体が 充填剤として添加されるが、本発明はこの充填剤として好適な非晶質球状シリカ 微粒子とその製造方法に関する。また、プラスチックフィルムやシートにフィラ ーを添加してフィルム表面に微細な凹凸を形成し、接触面積を減少させてブロッ キングを防止することが知られているが、本発明の非晶質微細シリカ粒子はこの フィラーとしても好適である。さらに、電子写真用トナーの流動性や耐熱性およ び長期保存性を改善し、さらに帯電性やクリーニング特性、キャリアや感光体表 面での付着性、現像材劣化挙動などを制御する目的で外添剤が用いられ、また電 子写真用トナーの耐久性を改善し、また電気的あるいは機械的な負荷がかかる電 子写真感光体の表面保護層の耐久性を高めるために内添剤が用いられるが、本発 明はこのような外添剤および内添剤としても広く用いることができる非晶質微細 シリカ粒子とその製造方法に関する。

[0003]

#### 【従来技術】

半導体用樹脂充填材として用いるシリカフィラーはできるだけ高純度であって その形状が真球に近く、適切な粒度分布を有するものが良く、さらに高充填およ び高流動性であるためにはそのシリカ粒子間の微細空間にも充填でき、かつ粒子 間の滑りも向上できるものが有効であり、このため、概ね平均粒径 0.1~1 μm および B E T 比表面積 (以下、単に比表面積と云う) 5~3 0 m²/g程度の粒子が使用されている。また、現在、電子写真用トナーの外添剤として流動性改善、帯電制御の目的で一般に平均粒径 0.006~0.040μmのシリカ粒子やチタニア粒子等が用いられており、内添剤として平均粒径 0.005~0.040μmのシリカ粒子が用いられているが、高速化、高画像化および現像材劣化挙動等の制御などに対応できるシャープな粒度分布を持った微細シリカ粒子が求められている。また、電子写真感光体の表面保護層や電荷輸送層の耐久性を高めるために、平均粒径 0.005~0.150μmのシリカ粒子が用いられているが、珪酸ナトリウムを原料として製造される湿式シリカやシリカゲルはソーダ等のアルカリ金属の含有量が高い問題があり、これに代わる適切な粒度のアルカリ金属量の少ない微細シリカ粒子が求められている。

## [0004]

ところで、従来のゾル・ゲル法では1μm以下の微粒子を製造するのは困難であり、このような充填材料として好ましい粒度のシリカ微粒子を得るのは難しい。しかも、ゾル・ゲル法では1μm以下の微粒子を生成しても、その反応物を安定したシリカ粒子に焼成する際に粒子どうしの成長および焼結が生じ、この粒度のままで単分散可能なシリカ粒子を安定に得ることができない。また、焼成不十分なゾル・ゲル反応物微粒子はシラノール基や有機物が過度に残留しており、これを混練・充填したコンパウンドは射出成形・加工する際に気体が発生するなどの問題があり、半導体樹脂封止材用充填材には使用できない。

#### [0005]

一方、二酸化チタン粒子については、四塩化チタンを原料として用い、高温下でこれを酸素ガスで直接酸化することによって 0.1 μm以上の結晶性粒子を製造する方法が知られているが、シリカの直接酸化反応は二酸化チタンよりも高温下で行う必要があり、しかも融点(1730℃)と沸点(2230℃)が近いために粒子の成長が十分ではなく 0.1 μm以下の超微粒子になりやすい。しかも生産性も低い。従って、この方法によっても充填材料として好ましい粒度のシリカ粒子を得るのが難しい。

[0006]

また、酸素含有雰囲気中で金属珪素粉末に着火し、火炎を形成して連続的に酸化燃焼させる方法は、製造されるシリカ粉末の純度が低いと云う問題がある。半導体封止樹脂に用いるシリカ微粉末は高純度のものが求められ、特に、放射線エラーを生じないようにウラン含有量が可能な限り少ないものが必要とされる。ところが、金属珪素の精製は困難であり、これを原料とする酸化燃焼法では高純度のシリカ微粉末を低コストで製造することができない。

[0007]

【発明が解決しようとする手段】

本発明は、従来の製造方法における上記問題を解決したものであり、形状が真球に近く、適度が粒度分布を有する高純度の非晶質微細シリカ粒子を低コストで製造する方法を提供するものであり、また、そのシリカ微粒子に関するものである。

[0008]

【課題を解決する手段】

すなわち、本発明は(1)ガス状の珪素化合物を火炎中に導いて加水分解することにより非晶質シリカ微粒子を製造する方法において、火炎温度をシリカの融点以上および火炎中のシリカ濃度を $0.25\,kg/Nm^3$ 以上とし、生成したシリカ粒子をシリカの融点以上の高温下に短時間滞留させ、平均粒径(メジアン径)0.1~ $0.7\,\mu$ mおよび比表面積 $5\sim30\,m^2/g$ の非晶質シリカ粒子を得ることを特徴とする非晶質微細シリカ粒子の製造方法に関する。

[0009]

本発明の製造方法は以下の態様を含む。

- (2) 火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)が0.25~1.0 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>である上記(1)の製造方法。
- (3)シリカ粒子の火炎中の滞留時間(t)が0.02~0.30秒である上記(1)または(2)の製造方法。
- (4)シリカ粒子の比表面積(S)、メジアン径(r)、火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)、シリカ粒子の火炎中の滞留時間(t)を、おのおの次式[I]または[II]に従って制

御する上記(1)、(2)または(3)の製造方法。

$$S = 3.52 \text{ (v · t)}^{-0.4} \cdots \text{ [I]}$$
  
 $r = 1.07 \text{ (v · t)}^{0.4} \cdots \text{ [II]}$ 

[0010]

また、本発明は(5) 平均粒径(メジアン径) $0.1\sim0.7~\mu$ mおよび比表面積 $5\sim3~0~m^2/g$ であって、次式 [III] で表される分散係数(z)が4~0以下であることを特徴とする非晶質微細シリカ粒子に関する。

(Xはメジアン径、Yは累積10%到達粒径から累積90%到達粒径までの粒径範囲)

[0011]

本発明の非晶質微細シリカ粒子は、(6)半導体樹脂封止材の充填材として用いられる上記(5)の非晶質微細シリカ粒子。(7)プラスチックフィルムないしシートのアンチブロッキング用フィラーとして用いられる上記(5)の非晶質微細シリカ粒子、(8)トナー用外添剤として用いられる上記(5)の非晶質微細シリカ粒子、(9)電子写真感光体の表面保護層もしくは電荷輸送層に用いられる上記(5)の非晶質微細シリカ粒子を含む。

[0012]

本発明の非晶質微細シリカ粒子は、半導体封止用樹脂の充填材、プラスチックフィルム等のアンチブロッキング用フィラー、あるいは電子写真トナーや感光体などの電子写真材料の外添剤ないし内添剤として好適な粒度分布を有しており、これらの充填材料として優れた効果を発揮する。また、本発明の製造方法によればこの非晶質微細シリカ粒子を容易に製造することができる。

[0013]

【発明の実施の形態】

以下、本発明を実施形態に基づいて詳細に説明する。

## (1)製造方法

本発明の製造方法は、ガス状の珪素化合物を火炎中に導いて加水分解することにより非晶質シリカ微粒子を製造する方法において、火炎温度をシリカの融点以

上および火炎中のシリカ濃度を $0.25 \, kg/Nm^3$ 以上とし、生成したシリカ粒子をシリカの融点以上の高温下に短時間滞留させ、平均粒径(メジアン径) $0.1\sim0.7 \, \mu$ mおよび比表面積 $5\sim30 \, m^2/g$ の非晶質シリカ粒子を得ることを特徴とする方法である。

## [0014]

本発明の製造方法は火炎加水分解法に基づいており、珪素化合物の原料ガスを火炎中に導いて加水分解することによりシリカ粒子を製造する。原料の珪素化合物としては、四塩化珪素、トリクロロシラン、ジクロロシラン、メチルトリクロロシラン等のガス状で酸水素炎中に導入され、高温下で加水分解反応を生じるものが用いられる。これらの四塩化珪素等のガス状珪素化合物は蒸留精製が容易であり、原料中の不純物を容易に除去できるので高純度のシリカ粒子を製造することができる。

### [0015]

可燃性ガスおよび支燃性ガスを用いて火炎を形成し、火炎温度をシリカの融点 (1730℃)以上に高める。可燃性ガスとしては水素や水素含有ガス、水素生成ガスを使用することができる。支燃性ガスとしては酸素や酸素含有ガスを使用することができる。火炎温度がシリカの融点より低いと目的とする粒径のシリカ粒子を得るのが難しい。

## [0016]

これらの原料ガス(珪素化合物ガス)、可燃性ガス、支燃性ガスは燃焼バーナによって火炎を形成するが、本発明の火炎加水分解法では、生成したシリカ粒子がシリカ融点以上の高温下で滞留する時間を確保するため、燃焼バーナの外周部で可燃性ガスを燃焼させることによって輻射で失われる熱量を補うと良い。また、反応容器は火炎温度をシリカの融点以上に保持するために1000℃以上の高温でに耐える構造とし、排気側には排風機等を設けて吸引し、容器内の圧力を大気圧基準で-200mmAgから-10mmAg程度の負圧に保つことが好ましい。

### [0017]

本発明の製造方法では、原料ガスの供給量等を制御して火炎中のシリカの濃度を $0.25\,\mathrm{kg/Nm}^3$ 以上、好ましくは $0.25\,\mathrm{cm}^3$ 程度に調整する。この

シリカ濃度が $0.25 \, \mathrm{kg/Nm}^3$ より低いと十分に粒子が成長せず、所望の粒径のものが得られない。一方、シリカ濃度が $1.0 \, \mathrm{kg/Nm}^3$ を上回るとバーナにシリカが付着しやすくなり、また粒径の制御も難しい。

## [0018]

さらに、本発明の製造方法は、火炎加水分解によって生成したシリカ粒子を火炎中(シリカの融点以上の高温下)に短時間滞留させることによってシリカ粒子を成長させ、その粒径を制御する。この滞留時間は0.02~0.30秒が適当である。滞留時間が0.02秒以下では粒子の成長が十分ではない。また、滞留時間が0.30秒より長いと生成したシリカ粒子どうしの融着が生じ、さらに反応容器内壁に対するシリカの付着も顕著になるので好ましくない。

## [0019]

なお、原料ガス、可燃性ガスおよび支燃性ガスに希釈用ガス(空気や窒素ガスなど)を導入して燃焼温度およびガス流速を調整することにより。シリカ粒子の粒径を制御することができる。希釈用ガスの供給量を増加して火炎温度を下げると共にガス流速を高めると、シリカの滞留時間が減少し、粒子の成長が制限されるので比較的粒径が小さく、従って、比表面積の大きなシリカ粒子となる。

# [0020]

具体的には、本発明の製造方法において製造するシリカ粒子の比表面積(S)、メジアン径(r)、火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)、シリカ粒子の火炎中の滞留時間(t)はおのおの次式[I]または[II]に従って制御される。

$$S = 3.52 \text{ (v · t)}^{-0.4} \cdots \text{ [I]}$$
  
 $r = 1.07 \text{ (v · t)}^{0.4} \cdots \text{ [II]}$ 

本発明の製造方法によって得られる微細シリカ粒子の比表面積(S)とメジアン径(r)は、図2および図3のグラフに示すように、それぞれ火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)と滞留時間(t)の積に対して、上記[I][II]式で表される対数曲線に示す関係を有することが見出される。従って、このシリカ濃度と滞留時間を因子としてシリカ粒子の比表面積(S)やメジアン径(r)を制御することができる。また目的の比表面積やメジアン径に応じて火炎中のシリカ濃度や滞留時間を制御する。

## [0021]

反応容器から取り出したシリカ粒子は、焼結や融着、再結晶、あるいは表面変化などが生じないように急速に冷却し、 水または他の凝縮しやすい反応物の露点以上の温度にして分離、回収する。この回収装置は集塵機、サイクロン、バグフィルターなどを用いることができる。回収したシリカ粒子には燃焼ガス中に含まれる塩化水素などのハロゲン、ハロゲン化合物、窒素酸化物などが吸着しているのでこれらを除去するのが好ましい。シリカ粒子に吸着しているこれらの揮発性の陰イオン性不純物は電気炉、流動層、ロータリーキルン等での加熱処理により除去ないし低減することができる。この加熱処理は連続処理ないしバッチ処理の何れでも良い。加熱処理は高温で処理時間が長いほどその除去・低減効果が高いが、800℃以上の高温ではシリカ粒子の凝集ないし融着等を生じる懸念があるのでこの温度以下が適当である。半導体材料として用いるには可能な限り不純物の少ない高純度のシリカが求められるが、このような吸着不純物を除去することによって半導体材料用として好適なシリカ粒子を得ることができる。

[0022]

# (II)微細シリカ粒子

上記製造方法によれば、平均粒径(メジアン径)  $0.1 \sim 0.7 \, \mu \, \text{m}$ および比表面 積  $5 \sim 3 \, 0 \, \text{m}^2 / \text{g}$ であって、次式 [III] で表される分散係数(z)が  $4 \, 0 \, \%$ 以下の非晶質微細シリカ粒子を得ることができる。

ここで、Xはメジアン径、Yは累積10%到達粒径から累積90%到達粒径までの粒径範囲である。式[III]から明らかなように、分散係数zは上記シリカ粒子のメジアン径を中心とする分布状態を示し、この値が小さいものほどメジアン径付近に粒度分布が集中している。なお、累積10%未満の粒径範囲、および累積90%を上回る粒径範囲は何れも分布の誤差が大きくなるので、累積10%到達粒径から累積90%到達粒径までの粒径範囲Yを基準とする。

#### [0023]

なお、本発明のシリカ粒子に類似する既存のシリカ粒子の分散係数(z)は概ね43%以上であり本発明よりも分布が広い。従って、粒子間の滑り性を付与する場合に比較的多くの添加量を必要とする。一方、本発明の微細シリカ粒子はその

分布がメジアン径付近に集中しており、従来品よりも格段に粒度が均一であるので、粒子間の滑り性を付与する場合に比較的少量の添加で効果が得られる利点がある。

## [0024]

また、本発明の微細シリカ粒子は容易に単分散可能な粒子である。このように本発明の微細シリカ粒子はメジアン径が従来のシリカ粒子より小さく、しかもメジアン径付近に粒度分布が集中しており、粒径が格段に均一であるので、半導体用の樹脂コンパウンドの流動性や耐バリ性等を改善するために用いられるシリカフィラーとして好適である。因みに、粒径が上記範囲より小さく比表面積が大きいものはコンパウンドの流動性が低下し、一方、上記範囲より粒径が大きく比表面積の小さいものは耐バリ性が低下する。

### [0025]

さらに、本発明のシリカ微粒子はほぼ完全な非晶質粒子であり、真球に近い粒子形状を有している。従って、半導体用樹脂コンパウンドの充填材料として優れた効果を発揮する。なお、図1に対比して示すように、充填材料等として市販されている従来のシリカ粒子は、その粒度分布のピークが本発明のシリカ粒子よりも1 μ m側に片寄り、本発明のシリカ粒子よりも粒径が大きい。

#### [0026]

本発明の微細シリカ粒子はプラスチックフィルムないしシートのアンチブロックキング用フィラーとしても好適である。アンチブロッキング用フィラーはフィルムやシートの表面に微細な凹凸を形成することによってブロッキングを防止する目的で使用され、耐摩耗ないし耐スクラッチ用フィラーよりは粒径が大きく、かつ粒径1μ叫以下の粒度分布がシャープな粒子が求められる。また、アンチブロッキング用フィラーはプラスチックフィルムないしシートから離脱しない化学的に安定なものが必要とされ、かつ製造時ないし成形加工時に気体を発生させることがなく、樹脂との親和性の高いものが求められる。本発明の微細シリカ粒子はこのアンチブロッキング用フィラーとして好適である。

## [0027]

本発明の微細シリカ粒子は以上のように比表面積ないしメジアン径が制御され

ており、かつ高純度であるので、電子写真用トナーの外添剤や内添剤としても好 適である。

[0028]

本発明のシリカ粒子はガス状の珪素化合物(四塩化珪素ガス等)を原料に用いるので蒸留によって不純物を除去するのが容易であり、ウラン含有量などが少ない高純度のシリカ粒子を得ることができる。具体的には、ウラン含有量0.5 ppb以下、アルミニウムおよび鉄の含有量が各々500 ppm以下、カルシウム含有量50 ppm以下、ナトリウム、マンガン、クロムおよびリンの含有量が各々10 ppm以下のシリカ微粒子を得ることができる。また、火炎加水分解によって製造したシリカ微粒子を回収する際の加熱処理によって吸着不純物が除去・低減されるので高純度のシリカ微粒子が得られる。半導体メモリーは、その材料に含まれる α線によるソフトエラーを防止するためウラン含有量が可能な限り少ないものが求められる。従って、本発明の高純度シリカ微粒子はこの点からも好ましい。

[0029]

## 【実施例】

以下、実施例によって本発明を具体的に示す。

[0030]

## 〔実施例1〕

図1に示すように、原料の珪素化合物の気化して供給するための蒸発器1、原料の珪素化合物ガスを供給する供給管2、可燃性ガスを供給する供給管3、支燃性ガスを供給する供給管4、これらの供給管2~4に接続したバーナー5、火炎加水分解反応を行う反応器6、反応容器6の下流に連結された冷却管7、製造されたシリカ粉末を回収する回収装置8、さらに下流に排ガス処理装置9、排風機10からなる製造装置を用い、以下のようにして非晶質微細シリカ粒子を製造した。なお、反応容器6の内壁は1000℃以上の高温に耐えるようにアルミナ煉瓦で内張りして用いた。

## 製造工程

支燃性ガス供給管を開いて酸素ガスをバーナーに供給し、着火用バーナー(図 示省略)に点火した後、可燃性ガス供給管を開いて水素ガスをバーナーに供給し て火炎を形成し、これに四塩化珪素を蒸発器1にてガス化して供給し、表2に示す条件下で火炎加水分解反応を行わせ、生成したシソカ粉末を回収装置8のバグフィルターで回収した。粉末回収後の排ガスは排ガス処理装置9で処理し、排風機10を通じて排気した。原料の四塩化珪素ガス量、水素ガスおよび酸素ガスの量、火炎中のシリカ濃度と滞留時間、生成したシリカ粒子の粒度および分布係数を表1にまとめて示した。なお、既存品のシリカ粒子の値を対比して示した。また、実施例No.1~6、および既存品の粒度分布を図2に示した。

[0031]

【表1】

No.	1	2	3	4	5	. 6	既存品
製造条件							
四塩化珪素(kg/hr)	200	125	100	100	150	150	
水素ガス(Nm³/hr)	60	50	60	60	60	45	
酸素ガス(Nm³/hr)	60	28	33	33	33	25	
シリカ濃度(kg/Nm³)	0.50	0.53	0.41	0.41	0.53	0.63	
滞留留時間(sec)	0.012	0.030	0.042	0.078	0.071	0.083	
生成したシリカ粒子			-				
比表面積(m²/g)	30.0	19.1	17.7	15.3	13.2	10.7	5.5
メジアン径(μm)	0.195	0.220	0.240	0.299	0.348	0.370	0.65
10%到達粒径(μm)	0.116	0.126	0.132	0.182	0.227	0.244	0.988
90%到達粒径(μm)	0.250	0.280	0.285	0.386	0.454	0.498	0.389
Y:粒径範囲(μ m)	0.134	0.154	0.153	0.204	0.227	0.254	0.599
z:Y/2X(%)	34.4	35.0	31.9	34.1	32.6	34.3	46.1

(注) 10%到達粒径および90%到達粒径は何れも累積到達粒径、Xはメジアン径 Yは累積 10%到達粒径(A)から累積 90%到達粒径(B)までの粒径範囲:Y=B-A zは分散係数、シリカ濃度は火炎中の濃度

## [0032]

表1および図2に示すように、No.1~6のシリカ粒子は比表面積13.2~3 $0.0\,\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ 、平均粒径(メジアン径) $0.1\,9\,5\sim0.3\,7\,\mu\,\text{m}$ 、分布係数 $3\,1\sim3\,5\,$ %であり、何れも本発明の範囲に含まれる。一方、既存品のシリカ粒子は比表面積とメジアン径が本発明の範囲に含まれるものの分散係数は本発明のシリカ粒子

よりも大きく、粒度分布のピークが本発明のシリカ粒子より大きい。

[0033]

No.1~6のシリカ粒子について、火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)と滞留時間(t)の 積に対する比表面積(S)とメジアン径(r)の関係を図3および図4に示した。こ の結果から、火炎中のシリカ濃度(v)と滞留時間(t)の積は比表面積(S)とメジ アン径(r)に対して次式[I][II]の関係にあることが見出された。

$$S = 3.52 \text{ (v · t)}^{-0.4} \cdots \text{ [I]}$$
  
 $r = 1.07 \text{ (v · t)}^{0.4} \cdots \text{ [II]}$ 

[0034]

## [実施例2]

ビフェニル型エポキシ樹脂にフェノールノボラック型硬化剤を添加した表2に示す組成の樹脂分に、標準フィラーに実施例1のシリカ粉末(No.1~6)を加えたフィラーを配合して試験用コンバウンドを調製した。このコンパウンドを加熱したミキシングロールミル(2本ロール)で5分間混練し、そのスパイラルフローとバリ長さを測定した。この結果を表3に示した。なお、シリカフィラーは標準フィラーに対して全フィラー中での重量比が5%、10%となるように調合し、コンパウンド中のシリカフィラー充填率を88.0重量%とした。標準フィラーは平均粒経22.4μm、比表面積2.3m²/gの球状シリカ粒子を使用した。測定は各試料を射出試験機にて加熱温度180℃、射出圧力70kg/cm²G、100秒間で各測定用金型に射出し、スパイラルフローおよびバリの長さを測定した。比較基準との対比から明らかなように、本発明のシリカ粒子を添加したものは何れもスパイラルフローおよびバリ長さが低減されており、この効果は概ね添加量に比例している。

[0035]

【表2】

成分〔使用品名〕	樹脂分	コンパウンド	
10 h 164 mt / 12 m 1501)	配合比率(wt%)	配合比率(wt%)	
エポキシ樹脂(ビフェニル型)	53.7	6.45	
〔油化シュルユポキシ社: YH 4000 H〕			
硬化剤(フェノールーノボラック型)	31.4	3.77	
〔日本化薬社:PN-80〕	01.4		
難燃剤 (Br-ピスフェノール A)	7	0.65	
〔油化シュルエポキシ社:エピコート 5050〕	5.4		
難燃剤(三酸化アンチモン)	5.4	0.65	
離型剤 (カルナバ ワックス)	1.1	0.13	
着色剤 (カーホ・ソフ・ラック)	1.6	0.19	
シランカップリング剤	0.6	0.07	
〔信越化学工業社: KBM 403〕	0.0	0.07	
硬化促進剤(トリフェニル フォスフィン)	0.8	0.09	
シリカ粉末(標準フィラー+試験品)			
標準フィラー :90~100%		88.00	
微粒試験品: 0~ 10%			
合計	100.0	100.00	

# [0036]

# 【表3】

沙粒子	添加量(g)	スパイラルフロー(インチ)	バリ長さ(mm)
No.1	2.5	27.0	6.1
	5.0	23.0	4.2
	10.0	19.0	1.9
No.2	2.5	25.5	5.6
	5.0	23.5	4.3
	10.0	23.0	2.2
<b>No.3</b>	2.5	29.5	6.1
	5.0	26.0	5.1
	10.0	23.5	1.9
No.4	2.5	32.5	6.1
	5.0	32.0	5.1
	10.0	27.0	3.2
No.5	2.5	33.5	7.3
	5.0	33.0	5.0
	10.0	28.0	3.2
No.6	2.5	35.5	5.9
	5.0	35.5	3.8
	10.0	35.5	4.2
基準	0.0	31.9	8.5

# [0037]

# 【発明の効果】

本発明の製造方法によれば、平均粒径(メジアン径)0.1~0.7 μmおよび比表面積が5~30m²/gであって、分散係数(z)40%以下のシャープな粒度分布を有するシリカ微粒子を得ることができる。このシリカ微粒子は真球に近い粒子形状を有し、しかも粒径が格段に均一である。従って、半導体用の樹脂充填材料やプラスチックフィルムないしシートのアンチブロッキング用フィラーとして好適である。

## 【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】 本発明の製造方法を実施する製造装置の構成図
- 【図2】 本発明のシリカ微粒子と既存品の粒度分布を示すグラフ
- 【図3】 本発明に係るシリカ粒子の比表面積の関係式を示すグラフ
- 【図4】 本発明に係るシリカ粒子のメジアン径の関係式を示すグラフ

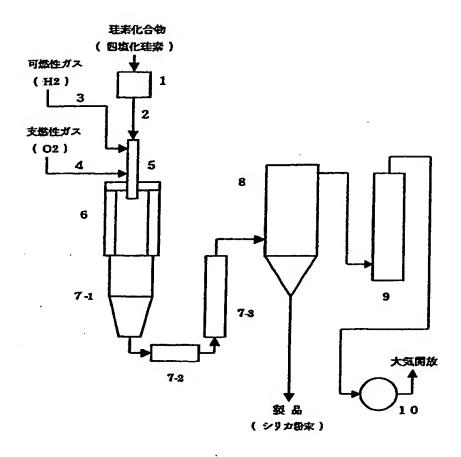
## 【符号の説明】

1-蒸発器、2-原料ガスの供給管2、3-可燃性ガスの供給管、4-支燃性ガスの供給管、5-燃焼バーナー、6-反応容器、7-冷却管、8-回収装置、9-排ガス処理装置9、10-排風機。

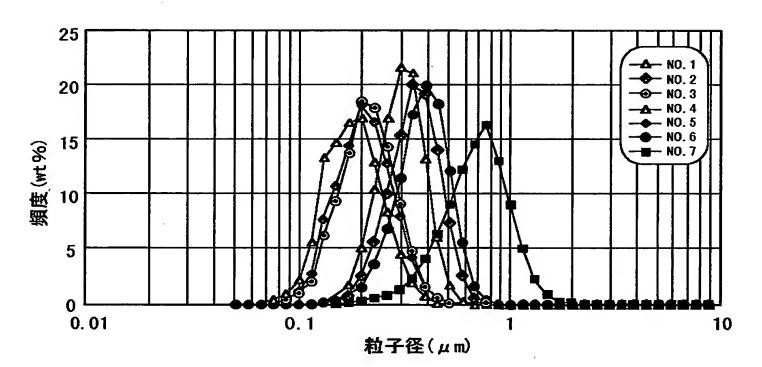
【書類名】

図面

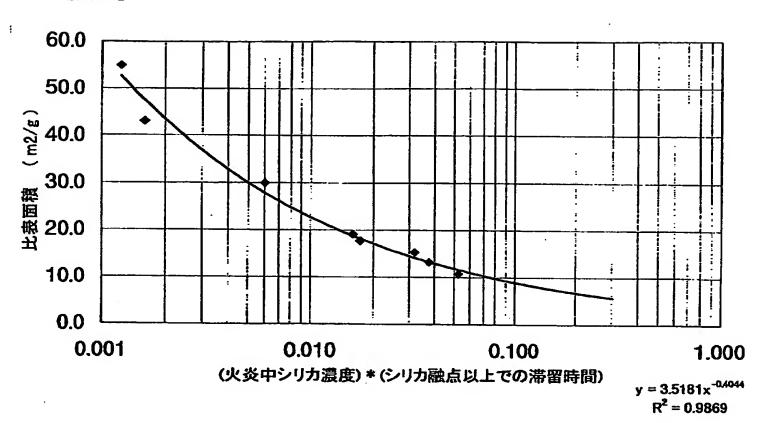
【図1】



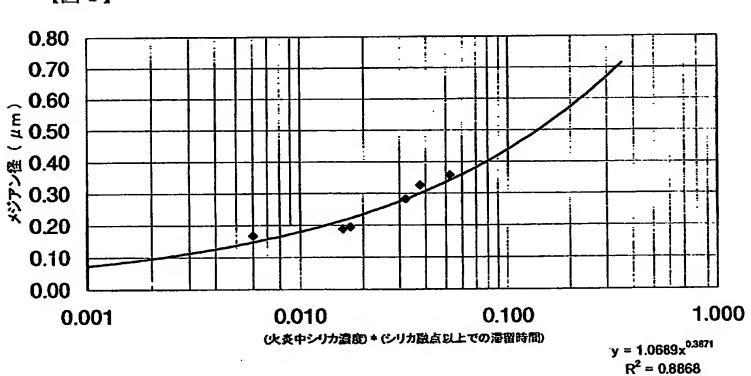
【図2】



【図3】







【書類名】 要約書

【要約】

【課題】 半導体用樹脂の充填材料として好適な微細シリカ粒子とその製造

方法の提供

【解決手段】 ガス状の珪素化合物を火炎中に導いて加水分解することにより非晶質シリカ微粒子を製造する方法において、火炎温度をシリカの融点以上とし、火炎中のシリカ濃度を高め、生成したシリカ粒子をこの火炎中に滞留させて成長させ、平均粒径0.1~1.0 μmおよび比表面積5~30m²/gの非晶質シリカ粒子を得る。

【選択図】 なし

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- (1) that I know well both the Japanese and English languages;
- (2) that I translated the attached document identified as corresponding to Japanese Application No.[JP2000-184160] filed in Japan on [June 20, 2000] from Japanese to English;
- (3) that the attached English translation is a true and correct translation of Japanese Application No.[JP2000-184160], to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (4) that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further, that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Kondou Takahiko

[IPC]

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[Title of the Invention] Amorphous Fine Silica Particle, and Production

Method and Application thereof

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[Title of the Invention] Amorphous Fine Silica Particle, and Production Method and Application thereof

### [What is claimed is]

[Claim 1] A process for producing an amorphous fine silica particle by introducing a gaseous silicon compound into a flame and hydrolyzing it, the process comprising,

setting the flame temperature to be more than melting point of silica, setting a silica concentration in the flame to be more than  $0.25 \text{ kg/Nm}^3$ , staying a generated silica particle for a short time under the high temperature which is more than the melting point of the silica, and making the amorphous silica particle having 0.1 to  $1.0\,\mu$  m of the average particle diameter (median diameter) and 5 to 30 m²/g of the specific surface area.

[Claim 2] The production process according to claim 1,

wherein the silica concentration (v) in the flame is 0.25 to 1.0 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>.

[Claim 3] The production process according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein the staying time (t) in the flame of the silica particle is 0.02 to 0.30 seconds.

[Claim 4] The production process according to claim 1, 2 or 3, the process comprising,

controlling the specific surface area (S) and the median diameter of the silica particle (r), the silica concentration in the flame (v), and the staying time in the flame (t) of the silica particle according to the following formulas [I] and

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[II], respectively:

$$S = 3.52 (v \cdot t) - 0.4 \cdots [I]$$

$$r = 1.07 \text{ (v t) } 0.4 \qquad \cdots \text{[II]}$$

[Claim 5] An amorphous fine silica particle,

wherein the average particle diameter (median diameter) is 0.1 to 0.7μm, the specific surface area is 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and dispersion coefficient (z) shown in the following formula [III] is 40 or less:

where X is a median diameter, Y is a particle size range, which is from 10% to 90% of an accumulative particle size.

[Claim 6] The amorphous fine silica particle according to claim 5, wherein said silica particle is used as a filler of a semiconductor resin-sealing agent.

[Claim 7] The amorphous fine silica particle according to claim 5, wherein said silica particle is used as a filler for anti-blocking of a plastic film or sheet.

[Claim 8] The amorphous fine silica particle according to claim 5, wherein said silica particle is used as an outer additional agent for a toner. [Claim 9] The amorphous fine silica particle according to claim 5, wherein said silica particle is used for a surface protection layer or an electric charge transportation layer of a photo conductor of an electronic photograph.

[Background of the Invention]

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## [Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to an amorphous spherical fine silica particle and production process thereof. This silica particle is suitable as a filler for a semiconductor sealing agent, a filler for anti-blocking of a plastic film or sheet, an outer or inner additional agent of a toner for an electronic photograph in a copying machine, a printer, a facsimile, a plate making system, or the like, which are driven by an electronic photograph method, and a material of a surface protection layer or an electric charge transportation layer of a photo conductor for an electronic photograph.

## [0002]

Although a silica fine powder is added as a filler to a semiconductor resin-sealing agent in order to improve fluidity and burr resistance, the present invention relates to the amorphous spherical silica particle suitable as this filler, and its production process. Further, although it is known that the blocking is prevented by adding the filler to a plastic film or sheet, forming the fine irregularity on the surface of the film and decreasing a contact area, the amorphous fine silica particle of the present invention is also suitable as this filler. Further, the outer additional agent is used for improving the fluidity, heat resistance and long-term preservation of the toner for the electronic photograph, and controlling electrostatic charge, a cleaning characteristic, adhessibility on a carrier or a surface of the photo conductor, and degradation behavior of a development material. In addition, the inner additional agent is used for improving durability of the toner for the electronic photograph and increasing durability of the surface protection layer of the photo conductor of the electronic photograph, which is loaded electrically or mechanically.

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However, the present invention relates to the amorphous fine silica particle, which is widely used as such the outer or inner additional agent, and its production process.

# [0003]

## [Description of the Prior Art]

As for the silica filler used as the semiconductor resin-sealing agent, it is suitable that the silica filler has high purity as much as possible, a true spherical form, and a suitable particle size distribution. Further, in order to have the high filling and the high fluidity, it is effective that the silica filler can be filled also in a fine space between these silica particles, and be improved a sliding between these particles. Therefore, the particle having 0.1 to  $1 \,\mu$  m of an average particle diameter and 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g of a BET specific surface area (it is called as only the specific surface area hereinafter) has been used in general. Further, as the outer additional agent of the toner for the electronic photograph, the silica particle, a titania particle or the like having 0.006 to 0.040 \mu m of the average particle diameter has been used now for improving the fluidity and controlling the electrostatic charge. In addition, as the inner additional agent, the silica particle having 0.005 to  $0.040 \,\mu$  m of the average particle diameter has been used. However, the following fine silica particle is required, that is, the particle having the sharp particle size distribution for corresponding to improve speed, clearness of the picture and control of the degradation behavior of the development material, or the like. Furthermore, the silica particle having 0.005 to  $0.150\,\mu$  m of the average particle diameter has been used for increasing the durability of the surface

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protection layer or the electric charge transportation layer of the photo conductor of the electronic photograph. However, a wet-type silica and a silica gel produced using sodium silicate as a raw material have a problem that the content of an alkali metal such as soda or the like is high. Thus, the fine silica particle having low content of the alkali metal is required instead of the wet-type silica and the silica gel.

[0004]

By the way, in a conventional sol-gel method, it is hard to produce the fine particle being  $1\mu$  m or less and to obtain the silica fine silica particle having the suitable particle size as the material of the filler. Further, in the sol-gel method, even when the particle being  $1\mu$  m or less is produced, the particles are grown and sintered each other when the reactant is baked to become the stable silica particle. Thus, it is difficult to obtain steadily the silica particle which is possible to isodisperse while keeping the particle size. Further, the fine particle of the reactant by the sol-gel method, which is insufficient baked, has residual silanol groups and organic materials too much, so that there is a problem that a compound mixed, kneaded and filled with this fine particle, generates gases at the time of an injection molding processing. Thus, this fine particle cannot be used to the filler for the semiconductor resin-sealing agent.

[0005]

On the other hand, as for a titanium dioxide particle, the following process is known, that is, a process comprising, using titanium tetrachloride as the raw material, directly oxidizing it with oxygen at high temperature, and thereby, producing a crystalline particle being  $0.1\,\mu$  m or more. However,

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as for the production process of silica, it is necessary to carry out a direct oxidation at a higher temperature than that of the titanium dioxide. Further, since the difference between the melting point  $(1730^{\circ})$  and the boiling point  $(2230^{\circ})$  is closed the growing of the particle is insufficient, so that it becomes easily to an ultra fine particle being  $0.1\,\mu$  m or less. Further, the productivity is also low. Therefore, it is also hard to obtain the silica particle having the preferable particle size as the filler material by this process.

[0006]

Further, the following process has a problem that the purity of the silica particle to be produced is low, that is, the process comprising, firing a metallic silicon powder in an oxygen containing atmosphere, forming the flame, and oxidizing continuously. As for the silica fine powder used to the semiconductor resin-sealing agent, the powder having the high purity is required, and more particularly, the powder having an uranium content as small as possible is required for not generating a radiation error. However, it is hard to refine the metallic silicon, so that the silica fine powder having the high purity cannot be produced at low cost by the oxidation combustion method using this metallic silicon as the raw material.

[0007]

[Problems to be solved]

The present invention solves the above-mentioned problems in the conventional production process, and provides the process for producing the high purity amorphous fine silica particle with low cost, wherein the particle has a true spherical form and a suitable particle size distribution. Further, the

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present invention relates to the fine silica particle produced by thereof.

## [8000]

### [Means to be solved]

That is, the present invention relates to the following production process of the amorphous fine silica particle.

(1) A process for producing an amorphous fine silica particle by introducing a gaseous silicone compound into a flame and hydrolyzing it, the process comprising,

setting the flame temperature to be more than a melting point of silica, setting a silica concentration in the flame to be more than 0.25 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>, staying a generated silica particle for a short time under the high temperature which is more than the melting point of the silica, and producing the amorphous silica particle having 0.1 to 0.7 µm of an average particle diameter (median diameter) and 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g of a specific surface area.

## [0009]

The production process of the present invention includes the following constitutions.

- (2) The production process according to above (1), wherein the silica concentration (v) in the flame is 0.25 to 1.0 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The production process according to above (1) or (2), wherein the staying time (t) in the flame of the silica particle is 0.02 to 0.30 seconds.
- (4) The production process according to above (1), (2) or (3), the process

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comprising,

controlling the specific surface area (S) and the median diameter of the silica particle (r), the silica concentration in the flame (v), and the staying time in the flame (t) of the silica particle according to the following formulas [I] and [II], respectively:

$$S = 3.52 (v \cdot t) - 0.4 \cdots [I]$$

$$r = 1.07 \text{ (v t) } 0.4 \qquad \cdots \text{[II]}$$

[0010]

Further, the present invention relates to the following amorphous fine silica particle.

(5) An amorphous fine silica particle,

wherein the average particle diameter (median diameter) is 0.1 to  $0.7\mu m$ , the specific surface area is 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and dispersion coefficient (z) shown in the following formula [III] is 40 or less:

where X is a median diameter, Y is a particle diameter range, which is from 10% to 90% of an accumulative particle diameter.

[0011]

The amorphous fine silica particle of the present invention includes the following particles.

- (6) The amorphous fine silica particle according to above (5), wherein the silica particle is used as a filler of a semiconductor resin-sealing agent.
- (7) The amorphous fine silica particle according to above (5), wherein the silica particle is used as a filler for anti-blocking of a plastic film

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or sheet.

(8) The amorphous fine silica particle according to above (5),

wherein the silica particle is used as an outer additional agent for a toner.

(9) The amorphous fine silica particle according to above (5),

wherein the silica particle is used for a surface protection layer or an electric

charge transportation layer of a photo conductor of an electronic photograph.

[0012]

The amorphous fine silica particle of the present invention has the suitable particle size distribution as the filler for the semiconductor resin-sealing agent, the filler for the anti-blocking of the plastic film or the like, and the outer or inner additional agent of the material of the electronic photograph such as the toner for the electronic photograph, the photo conductor or the like. Further, this amorphous fine silica particle has the sufficient effect as these fillers. Furthermore, according to the production process of the present invention, this amorphous fine silica particle can be

[0013]

[Detailed description of the preferred embodiments]

(I) Production Process

easily produced.

The production process of the present invention is the process for producing the amorphous fine silica particle by inducing the gaseous silicon compound into the flame and hydrolyzing it, and this process comprising, setting the flame temperature to be more than the melting point of the silica,

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setting the silica concentration in the flame to be more than 0.25 kg/Nm<sup>3</sup>, staying the generated silica particle for a short time under the high temperature which is more than the melting point of the silica, and producing the amorphous silica particle having 0.1 to 0.7 µm of the average particle diameter (median diameter) and 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g of a specific surface area.

[0014]

The production process of the present invention is based on a flame hydrolyzing method, and produces the silica particle by inducing the raw material gas of the silicon compound into the flame and hydrolyzing it. As the silicon compound as the raw material, the compound, such as silicon tetrachloride, trichlorosilane, dichlorosilane, methyltrichlorosilane or the like, is used, and this compound is induced into an oxygen-hydrogen flame in the gaseous state, and generated a hydrolysis reaction at a high temperature. Since these gaseous silicon compounds such as the silicon tetrachloride or the like can be distilled and refined easily, the impurities in the raw material can be easily removed, so that the silica particle having the high purity can be produced.

[0015]

The flame is formed using a combustible gas and a combustion supporting gas, and the flame temperature is increased to more than the melting point of the silica  $(1730^{\circ}\text{C})$ . As the combustible gas, hydrogen, hydrogen-containing gas or hydrogen-generating gas can be used. As the combustion supporting gas, oxygen or oxygen-containing gas can be used. If the flame temperature is less than the melting point of the silica, it is hard to

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obtain the silica particle having the objective particle diameter.

[0016]

These raw material gas (the silicon compound gas), combustible gas, and combustion supporting gas, form the flame by a combustion burner. In the flame hydrolyzing method of the present invention, it is preferable to burn the combustible gas at the periphery part of the combustion burner for compensating the heat lost by radiation, in order to keep the time when the generated silica particle is stayed at the high temperature being more than the melting point of the silica. Further, as for a reaction container, it is preferable that the reaction container has a structure capable of bearing at the high temperature of  $1000^{\circ}$ C or more in order to keep the flame temperature being higher than the melting pint of the silica. Furthermore, it is also preferable that an exhaust fan or the like is provided at the exhaust side for absorbing, and the pressure in the container is kept at the negative pressure of 200 mmAg to 10 mmAg on an atmospheric pressure standard.

In the production process of the present invention, the silica concentration in the flame is adjusted to be more than 0.25 kg/Nm³, preferably about 0.25 to 1.0 kg/Nm³, by controlling the feeding amount or the like of the raw material gas. If the silica concentration is less than 0.25 kg/Nm³, the particle cannot be fully grown, so that the desired particle diameter cannot be obtained. On the other hand, the silica concentration is more than 1.0 kg/Nm³, the silica is easily adhered to the burner, and it is difficult to control the particle diameter.

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Further, in the production process of the present invention, the silica particle is grown and the particle diameter is controlled by staying the silica particle in the flame for the short time (at the high temperature being more than the melting point of the silica) when the silica particle is generated by the flame hydrolysis. The staying time is 0.02 to 0.30 seconds suitably. If the staying time is shorter than 0.02 seconds, the particle cannot be fully grown. Further, if the staying time is longer than 0.30 seconds, the generated particles are fused each other and the adhesion of silica to the inside wall of the reaction container is remarkably increased, so that it is not preferable. [0019]

In addition, the particle diameter of the silica particle can be controlled by inducing a dilution gas (air, nitrogen gas or the like) into the raw material gas, the combustible gas and the combustion supporting gas and adjusting the combustion temperature and gas flowing rate. When the feeding amount of the dilution gas is increased, the flame temperature is lowered and the gas flowing rate is increased, the staying time of the silica is decreased, and the growing of the particle is controlled. Thus, the silica particles having the comparatively small particle diameter and the large specific surface area are made.

[0020]

More particularly, in the production process of the present invention, the specific surface area (S), the median diameter (r), the silica concentration in the flame (v), and the staying time in the flame of the silica particle (t) are controlled respectively according to the following formulas [I] and [II].

$$S = 3.52 (v \cdot t)^{\cdot 0.4} \cdots [I]$$

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$$r = 1.07 (v \cdot t)^{0.4} \cdots [II]$$

As shown in graphs of Figure 2 and Figure 3, it is found out that the specific surface area (S) and the median diameter of the fine silica particle (r), which is produced by the production process of the present invention, have the relation shown in the logarithm curve expressed by the above formulas [I] and [II], with respect to the product of the silica concentration in the flame (v) and the staying time (t). Therefore, the specific surface area (S) and the median diameter of the silica particle (r) can be controlled using the silica concentration (v) and the staying time (t). Further, the silica concentration and the staying time in the flame are controlled according to the objective specific surface are and the median diameter.

[0021]

The silica particle taken out from the reaction container is quickly cooled so as not to be sintered, fused, recrystallized or surface-changed, and is dissociated and recovered at the temperature being the dew point of water or other reactive materials which are easily condensed. As a recovery device, a dust catcher, a cyclone, a bug filter or the like can be used. On the recovered silica particle, a halogen such as hydrogen chloride, a halogen compound, nitrogen oxide or the like contained in the combustible gas, is adsorbed, so that it is preferable to remove these materials. These volatile anion impurities adsorbed on the silica particle can be removed or decreased by heat-treating it in an electric furnace, a fluidized bed, a rotary kiln or the like. Any of treatments of continuous or a batch can be carried out as the heat treatment. As for the heat treatment, although the effect of removal and reduction is so high that the treatment time is long at the high temperature,

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the silica particle may be condensed or fused at the high temperature of  $800^{\circ}$ C or more, so that the temperature at  $800^{\circ}$ C or less is suitable. For using as a semiconductor material, the high purity silica having few impurities as much as possible is required. However, when such the adsorbed impurities are removed, the silica particle suitable as the semiconductor material can be obtained.

[0022]

## (II) Fine Silica Particle

According to the above mentioned production process, the amorphous silica particle having 0.1 to  $0.7\,\mu$  m of the average particle diameter (the median diameter), 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g of the specific surface area, and 40% of the dispersion coefficient (z) expressed in the following formula [III] can be produced.

$$Z = Y/2X$$
 ·····[III]

Where, X is the median diameter, and Y is the particle diameter range, which is from 10% to 90% of the accumulative particle diameter. Clearly from the formula [III], the dispersion coefficient (z) shows the distribution state centering the median diameter of the silica particle, and the particles having smaller value of this coefficient have the particle size distributions concentrated near the median diameter. In addition, as for the particle diameter range of less than 10% of the accumulative particle diameter and the particle diameter range of more than 90% of the accumulative particle diameter, both distribution errors become large, so that it is based on the particle diameter range Y, in which the accumulative particle diameter is from 10% to 90%.

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[0023]

In addition, the dispersion coefficient (z) of the conventional silica particle like the silica particle of the present invention is 43% or more, and has larger distribution than that of the present invention. Therefore, the conventional silica particle needs comparatively many additional amounts when giving slidability between particles. On the other hand, as for the fine silica particle of the present invention, the distribution is concentrated near the median diameter, and the particle size is more uniform remarkably than that of the conventional particle. Thus, there is an advantageous that the effect can be easily obtained with the comparatively little amount when giving the slidability between the particles.

[0024]

Further, the fine silica particle of the present invention can be easily isodispersed. The fine silica particle of the present invention has the smaller median diameter than that of the conventional silica particle, the particle size distribution concentrated near the median diameter, and the remarkably uniform particle diameter in this way. Thus, this silica particle is suitable as the silica filler used for improving the fluidity, the burr resistance or the like of the resin compound for the semiconductor. By the way, as for the particle having the smaller particle diameter and larger specific surface area than the above mentioned ranges, the fluidity of the compound is decreased. On the other hand, as for the particle having the larger particle diameter and smaller specific surface are than the above mentioned ranges, the burr resistance is decreased.

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Furthermore, the fine silica particle of the present invention is a nearly perfect amorphous particle, and has the particle form like a near true sphere. Therefore, this silica particle has the excellent effect as the filling material of the resin compound for the semiconductor. In addition, as shown in Figure 1 with contrast, as for the conventional silica particle marketed as the filling material or the like, the peak of the particle size distribution is deviated to the  $1\mu$  m side as rather than the silica particle of the present invention, and the particle diameter is larger than that of the silica particle of the present invention.

[0026]

The fine silica particle of the present invention is also suitable as the filler for the anti-blocking of the plastic film or sheet. The filler for the anti-blocking is used for preventing a blocking by forming fine irregularities on the surface of the film or sheet. It is required for the filler for anti-blocking that the particle has the larger particle diameter than that of a filler for abrasion resistance or scratch resistance, the particle diameter of 1  $\mu$  m or less, and the sharp particle size distribution. Further, as for the filler for the anti-blocking, the chemical stability is required in order not to leave away from the plastic film or sheet. Furthermore, the filler not generating the gas at the time of the production or the molding process is required, and this filler must have high affinity with the resin. The fine silica particle of the present invention is suitable as the filler for the anti-blocking.

[0027]

The fine silica particle of the present invention is also suitable as the outer or inner additional agent of the toner for the electric photograph, since

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having the controlled specific surface area and median diameter, and the high purity as mentioned above.

[0028]

The silica particle of the present invention uses the gaseous silicon compound (the silicon tetrachloride gas or the like) as the raw material, and it is easy to remove the impurities by distillation, so that the high purity silica particle having few uranium contents or the like can be obtained. More particularly, the following fine silica particle can be obtained, that is, the silica particle, in which the uranium content is 0.5ppb or less, the contents of aluminum and iron are 500ppm or less respectively, and the contents of sodium, manganese, chromium and phosphorous are 10ppm or less respectively. Further, the adsorbed impurities are removed and reduced by the heat treatment at the time of recovering the silica particle produced by the flame hydrolysis, so that the high purity fine silica particle can be obtained. As for the semiconductor memory, a memory having the few uranium contents as small as possible is required in order to prevent a soft error induced by  $\alpha$  ray contained in the material. Therefore, the high purity fine silica particle of the present invention is preferable also from these points.

[0029]

[Example]

Hereinafter, the present invention is concretely explained with examples.

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# [Example 1]

As shown in Figure 1, the amorphous silica particle was produced as a following producing device, and this device comprised an evaporator 1 for evaporating and feeding the silicon compound as the raw material, a feed pipe 2 for feeding the silicon compound gas as the raw material, a feed pipe 3 for feeding the combustible gas, a feed pipe 4 for feeding the combustion supporting gas, a burner 5 connected to these pipes 2·4, a reaction container 6 carrying out the flame hydrolysis reaction, a cooling pipe 7 combined with the down stream of the reaction container 6, a recovery device 8 for recovering the produced silica particle, an exhaust gas treatment device 9 at the more down stream, and an exhaust fan 10. In addition, the inner wall of the reaction container 6 was lined with alumina bricks to be used so as to be resisted at the high temperature being  $1000^{\circ}$  or more.

## Production Process

The silica particle was obtained, opening the feed pipe pf the combustion supporting gas, feeding oxygen gas to the burner, firing the ignition burner (the illustration was omitted), opening the feed pipe of the combustible gas, feeding hydrogen gas to the burner to form the flame, feeding silicon tetrachloride gasified by the evaporator 1 to the flame, and carrying out the flame hydrolysis reaction under the conditions shown in Table 2, and recovering the generated silica powder by the recovery device 8. The exhaust gas after recovering the powder was treated by the exhaust gas treatment device 9, and was exhausted through the exhaust fan 10. The amount of the silicon tetrachloride gas as the raw material, the amounts of the hydrogen gas and the oxygen gas, the silica concentration and the

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staying time in the flame, and the particle diameter and the dispersion coefficient of the generated silica particle were shown in Table 1. In addition, the value of the conventional silica particle was shown comparatively. Further, the particle size distributions of Examples No.1-6 and the conventional silica particle were shown in Table 2.

[Table 1]

[0031]

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Conventional Particle
Production Conditions							
Silicon Tetrachloride (kg/hr)	200	125	100	100	150	150	
Hydrogen (Nm³/hr)	60	50	60	60	60	45	
Oxygen (Nm3/hr)	60	28	33	33	33	25	
Silica Concentration (kg/Nm³)	0.50	0.53	0.41	0.41	0.53	0.63	/
Staying Time (sec)	0.012	0.030	0.042	0.078	0.071	0.083	V 1
Generated Silica Particle							
Specific Surface Area (m²/g)	30.0	19.1	17.7	15.3	13.2	10.7	5.5
Median Diameter (μm)	0.195	0.220	0.240	0.299	0.348	0.370	0.65
10% ReachedParticle Diameter (μm)	0.116	0.126	0.132	0.182	0.227	0.244	0.988
90% ReachedParticle Diameter ( μ m)	0.250	0.280	0.285	0.386	0.454	0.498	0.389
Y : Particle Diameter Range (μm)	0.134	0.154	0.153	0.204	0.227	0.254	0.599
z : Y/2X (%)	34.4	35.0	31.9	34.1	32.6	34.3	46.1

(Note) Both of 10% Reached Particle Diameter and 90% Reached Particle Diameter is accumulative reached particle diameters. X is a median diameter. Y is a particle diameter range, which is from 10% to 90% of an accumulative reached particle diameter, i.e. Y=B-A. z is a dispersion coefficient. Silica Concentration is a concentration in flame.

## [0032]

As shown in Table 1 and Figure 2, as for the silica particles of No. 1-6, the specific surface area was 13.2 to 30.0 m<sup>2</sup>/g, the average particle diameter (the median diameter) was 0.195 to  $0.37 \,\mu$  m, and the dispersion coefficient was 31 to 35%. All of these values were within the range of the present

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invention. On the other hand, as for the conventional silica particle, although the specific surface area and the median diameter were within the range of the present invention, the dispersion coefficient was larger than that of the present invention, and the peak of the particle size distribution was larger than that of the silica particle of the present invention.

[0033]

As for the silica particles of No. 1.6, the relationships of the specific surface area (S) and the median diameter (r) with respect to the product of the silica concentration in the flame (v) and the staying time (t) were shown in Figures 3 and 4. From these results, it was found out that the product of the silica concentration in the flame (v) and the staying time (t) had relationship shown in the following formulas [I] and [II] with respect to the specific surface area (S) and the median diameter (r).

$$S = 3.52(v \cdot t)^{-0.4} \quad \cdots [I]$$

$$r = 1.07(v \cdot t)^{-0.4} \quad \cdots [II]$$

[0034]

[Example 2]

A compound for an examination was prepared, blending the filler, which was made by adding the silica powders (No.1 to 6) of Example 1 to the standard filler, with the resin having the composition shown in Table 2, in which the phenol novolac type curing agent was added to biphenyl type epoxy resin. This compound was mixed and kneaded for 5 minutes by the heated mixing roll mill (it had 2 rolls). Then, the spiral flow and the burr length were measured. These results were shown in Table 3. In addition, the silica filler was prepared so that the weight ratio of the silica filler with

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respect to the standard filler in all fillers became 5% and 10%, and the filling ratio of the silica filler in the compound was 88.0 wt.%. As the standard filler, the spherical silica particle having 22.4  $\mu$  m of the average particle diameter and 2.3 m²/g of the specific surface area was used. As for the measuring method, the spiral flow and the burr length were measured, injecting each sample to each metallic mold for the measurement for 100 seconds at the heating temperature of 180°C and the injection pressure of 70 kg/cm²G. Clearly from the contrast with the comparison basis, as for the samples added with the silica particle of the present invention, the spiral flow and the burr length were decreased, and this effect was almost proportional to the additional amount.

[0035]

[Table 2]

Composition [Name of used material]	Blending Ratio of Resin(wt%)	Blending Ratio of Compound(wt%)
Epoxy Resin (Biphenyl type) [Yuka Shell Epoxy Corp.: YH 4000 H]	53.7	6.45
Curing agent (Phenol novolac type) [Nippon Kayaku Corp.: PN = 80]	31.4	3.77
Fire Retardant <sup>(Br-biphenyl A)</sup> <sup>[Yuka Shell Epoxy Corp : Epicort5050]</sup>	5.4	0.65
Fire Retardant (Antimony Oxide)	5.4	0.65
Releasing Agent (Karunaba Wax)	1.1	0.13
Coloring Agent (Carbon Black)	1.6	0.19
Silane Coupling Agent [Shinestu Chemical Co.: KBM 403]	0.6	0.07
Curing Acceleration Agent (Triphenyl Phosphine)	0.8	0.09
Silica Powder (Standard Filler+Sample) Standard Filler : 90~100% Fine particle sample : 0~ 10%		88.00
Sum	100.0	100.00

[0036]
[Table 3]

Silica Particle	Addition(g)	Spiral Flow (inch)	Burr Length (mm)
No.1	2.5	27.0	6.1
	5.0	23.0	4.2
	10.0	19.0	1.9
No.2	2.5	25.5	5.6
	5.0	23.5	4.3
	10.0	23.0	2.2
No.3	2.5	29.5	6.1
	5.0	26.0	5.1
	10.0	23.5	1.9
No.4	2.5	32.5	6.1
	5.0	32.0	5.1
	10.0	27.0	3.2
No.5	2.5	33.5	7.3
	5.0	33.0	5.0
	10.0	28.0	3.2
No.6	2.5	35.5	5.9
	5.0	35.5	3.8
	10.0	35.5	4.2
Comparison Basis	0.0	31.9	8.5

# [0037] [Effectiveness of the Invention]

According to the production process of the present invention, it is possible to obtain the fine silica particle having 0.1 to  $0.7\,\mu$  m of the average particle diameter (the median diameter), 5 to 30 m²/g of the specific surface area, and 40% or less of the dispersion coefficient (z) having the sharp particle size distribution. This fine silica particle has the particle shape being near the true sphere, and the particle diameter is remarkably uniform. Therefore, this silica particle is suitable as the semiconductor resin-sealing agent and the filler for the anti-blocking of the plastic film or sheet, or the like.

Certificate Number

# [Brief Explanation of Drawings]

[Figure 1] A constitution view of a production device carrying out a production process of the present invention

[Figure 2] A graph showing particle size distributions of a fine silica particle of the present invention and a conventional silica particle

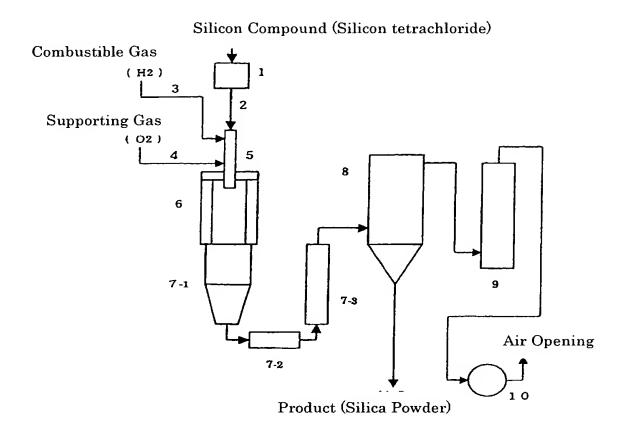
[Figure 3] A graph showing a relational expression of a specific surface area of the silica particle according to the present invention

[Figure 4] A graph showing a relational expression of a median diameter of the silica particle according to the present invention [Explanation of Codes]

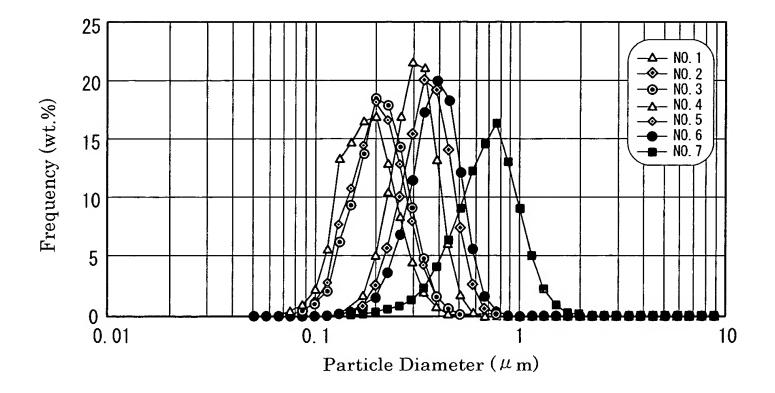
1 is an evaporator, 2 is a feed pipe of a raw material gas, 3 is a feed pipe of a combustible gas, 4 is a feed pipe of a combustion supporting gas, 5 is a combustion burner, 6 is a reaction container, 7 is a cooling pipe, 8 is a recovery device, 9 is an exhaust gas treatment device, 10 is an exhaust fan.

# [Name of Document] Drawings

# [Figure 1]

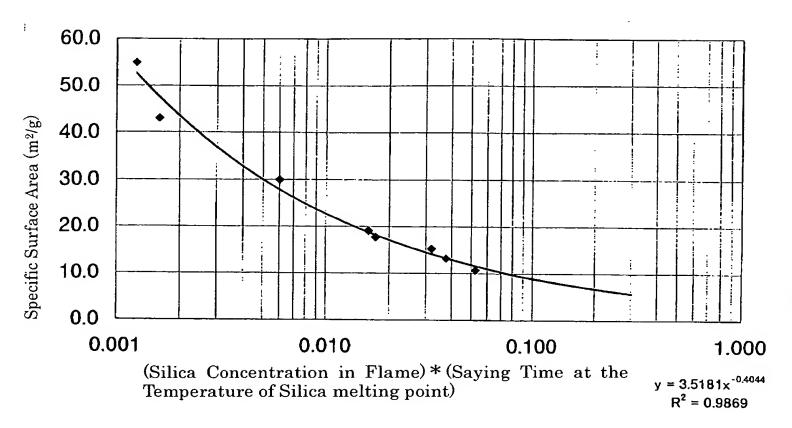


# [Figure 2]

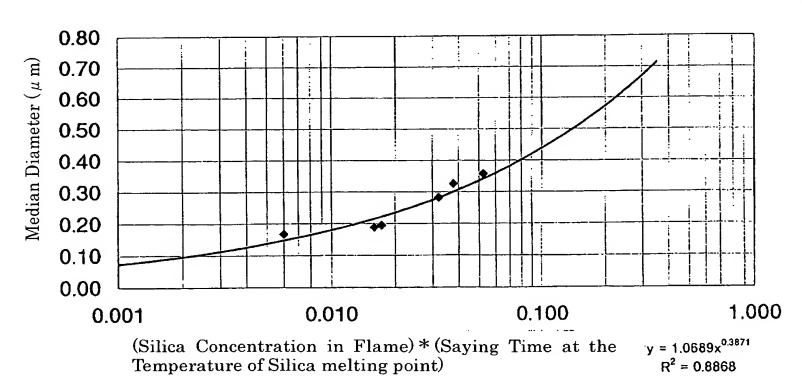


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[Figure 3]



[Figure 4]



[Name of Document] Abstract

[Summary]

[PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED] To provide a fine silica particle suitable as a filling material of a resin for semiconductor, and provide its production process.

[SOLUTION] In the method for producing an amorphous fine silica particle by introducing a gaseous silicone compound into a flame and hydrolyzing it, the flame temperature is made to be more than a melting point of silica, a silica concentration in the flame is increased, and a generated silica particle is stayed in the flame to be grown to obtain the amorphous silica particle having  $0.1 \text{ to } 1.0\,\mu\text{ m}$  of an average particle diameter and 5 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g of a specific surface area.

[Chosen drawing] Nothing

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Examiner in Charge of This Application Matsuno Kuniaki

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